

F-1-195
Thomas Sinn Farmstead
Adamstown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1876-1910

The Thomas Sinn Farmstead is significant in architecture for the Italianate style of the main dwelling, a large two-story brick house with paired arched windows and a projecting center bay with a full pediment and semi-circular window. Jib windows on the south elevation hint at a missing porch on that side, while the full-width porch on the east elevation appears to be a replacement of a more decorative original porch. The hipped slate roof probably had a central tower, cupola, or observation platform, but it has been removed. The interior has 14-foot ceilings on the first story. The remaining contributing outbuildings are a frame bank barn, a wagon shed/corn crib, a chicken house, and a tenant house. All except the tenant house date from the period 1875 to 1910. The tenant house, which was not available for documentation in this survey, may be a much older house which was mentioned in Grove's History of Carrollton Manor as a 1-1/2 story house occupied by elderly Thomas brothers around the Civil War period.

F-1-195
Thomas Sinn Farmstead
Adamstown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function & Use
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/Subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

2722A Buckeytown Pike

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1465/113 7 Dec 81	Barbara S. Butz & Relat. Mr. Ireland trustees of Thompson H. Butz Revocable Trust	Barbara S. Butz et al			356 1/4 79, mill, AMP 1/567 335/285
1001/720 15 Oct 76	Thompson H. Butz	Mr. Gibbs McKimney & George E. Thomas trustees of Clyde E. Thomas Charitable & Julia E. Thomas Unitrust			450/359
917/782 3 July 73	Mr. Gibbs McKimney & George E. Thomas trustees of Clyde E. Thomas Charitable	Clyde E. Thomas			
917/779 3 Jul 73	Mr. Gibbs McKimney & George E. Thom- son, trustees of Julia E. Thomas Charitable	Clyde E. Thomas			
477/434 17 Dec 48	Clyde E. & Julia E. Thomas	Buckingham School of Ind Co.	202 a. 10. 47 a.		Plot & survey of Buckingham School lands 460/38
460/38 12 Dec 46					JS 45/27 ES 3/221 CM 10/243
350/357 DHH 3/565 4 Apr 1899	Buckingham Industrial School	Wm. D. & S. Ella Baker	190 a.	\$13,307	↓ JS 45/27, 8 Jan 1834 John & Harriett Leo to John Thomas #129158 238 a.
DHH 3/566 1 Apr 1899	Wm. D. Baker	Wm. S. Chismell & ex	190 a. from 3 deces 1. 92 a. 2 R., 1: TG 11/563 2. 20 a.: AF 5/575 3. 97 1/2 a.: AF 7/413	\$13,307	↓ ES 3/221, 14 Feb 1853 Charles Tucker Carroll to George & Peter Thomas #152,471 13 a.
3) AF 7/413 10 Aug 1883	Wm. S. Chismell	Virginia Chismell et al	97 1/2 a.	\$7,200	↓ CM 10/243, 28 Jul 1873 Joseph S. Dutton to David Thomas #6,500 202 a.
AF 5/575 31 Nov 1882	Wm. S. Chismell	Joseph M. Chismell	20 a.		

2722A Buckeystown Pike, p. 2

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
TG 11/563 29 Apr 1879	Wm. J. Chiswell	Joseph N. Chiswell et ux	92 A., 2 B., 9 sq. p.	\$5,553.75	
#50/359 14 Nov 45	Clyde E. + Julia Thomas	Buckingham School of Frederick Co.	part of Lot No. 4 of Cacrolkton + part of Lot No. 3 202 A.		Lot 4 section in JS 45/27 to John Thomas Lot 3 section in ES 3/221 to George + Peter Thomas
STH 265/305 1 Mar 04	Daniel				
STH 269/163 9 Jan 05	Buckingham School	Daniel + Mary E. Baker			
STH 265/305 31 Mar 04	Daniel Baker	Wm. H. Hersperger et ux	202 A.	\$20,200	
WIP 9/208	Selghman J. Hersperger	Jacob S. Moffett et ux			
DHH 11/370 1 June 01	Wm. H. Hersperger	Selghman J. + Helen K. Hersperger	202 A.	\$17,800	
WIP 9/208 15 Apr 1889	Selghman J. Hersperger	Jacob J. Moffett et ux of Regneke, Va.		Assumption of mortgage of \$13,000 + \$7,250	Total: \$20,250
WIP 1/521 1 Sept 1886	Jacob S. Moffett	Jacob S. Moffett et ux. heirs of Benjamin Moffett, dec., intestate			
MAF 7/621 2 Jan 1884	Benjamin Moffett	John J. Sinn + Catharine C. Sinn	202 A.	\$25250	

F-1-195

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas Sinn Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2722A Buckeystown Pike not for publication

city, town Adamstown x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> x private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> x yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Barbara T. Buty & Robert W. Truland

street & number 15330 Darnestown Rd. telephone no.:

city, town Germantown state and zip code MD 20874

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1465

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 113

city, town Frederick state MD 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-1-195

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

The Thomas Sinn Farmstead is centered on a two-story brick Italianate dwelling built about 1876 and its remaining contributing outbuildings which include a frame bank barn of about 1875-1900, a frame chicken house of about 1900-1910, a wagon shed/corn crib of about 1900, and a tenant house which was not accessible for survey, but may have been built in the first half of the 19th century. The farmstead is located on the west side of Buckeystown Pike (Md. 85) about 0.2 mile south of Adamstown Road near Adamstown, Frederick County, Maryland. The farmstead stands in the middle of open, flat fields within full view of both Buckeystown and Adamstown Roads. The principal elevation of the Italianate house faces east, with the outbuildings located south and southwest of the house. The tenant house is located at the south end of the group, at some distance from the other buildings. Both dwellings are occupied as rental residences. Dates for the buildings are based on architectural evidence, local histories, land records, and historical maps.

The main dwelling is a large, two-story brick mansion with a two-story rear wing extending from the northwest corner. The low-pitched hipped slate roof has a central gable over the projecting center bay of the east elevation and extended eaves above the rather plain cornice. Large houses on other properties in the area have evidence of observation platforms or widows' walks on the roofs. The Sinn House has four central chimneys; however, it seems likely that the house may also have had a similar feature. A central element such as a tower or railed platform is a characteristic of the Italianate style. The first story has a full-width veranda with square posts on a concrete deck. The porch probably had more decoration in the form of brackets and trim in its original form, based on the appearance of porches of similar dated houses in the vicinity. The walls are painted white. The windows on the east elevation are paired on both stories, with round arches and molded hoods on the second story. The sash is 4/4. The first story windows have flat arches with 4/4 sash. The central gable has a full pediment with a centered semi-circular window lighting the attic. The center entrance has double, arched panel doors with glazed upper sections and a four-light transom. The south elevation probably originally had a full-width porch as well, because the three bays on this side have jib windows on the outer bays. Although the lower panels have been sealed and covered with plain wood panels, the flanking louvred shutters are the full height of the openings. Each window on this elevation has a molded lintel and 6/6 sash. The north elevation also has three bays, with evidence of later brick infill below the center opening, suggesting that a doorway was at this location in the original design. The two story rear wing has a slate roof and three bays on both the north and south elevations. The south side also has a two-story open porch with plain balustrades on both levels. The sash is 6/6. A two-story shed roofed single bay brick addition is attached to the west end. This addition is clearly a later construction, but its date is unknown. A boarded doorway is on the north elevation and a small two-story porch on the south side has a frame-enclosed, extended first level. The current tenant of the main dwelling, Mrs. Hammond, related a local tradition that this addition was built for black servants of the owners, but the date is unknown.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-1-195

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1876 - 1910

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B ☒C ___D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state ☒local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas Sinn Farmstead is highly significant for the design of the main dwelling, a good example of Italianate architecture of the mid-1870's. The national style was dominant from the 1850's to the 1880's, and rural examples in Frederick County are infrequent. However, the Adamstown Planning Region (historically the Buckeystown Election District) has many large mansions in the same large scale as the Sinn House such as the Archibald T. Snouffer Farmstead (F-1-165). The Snouffer House is a more complete Italianate house, with a bracketed cornice, original porch trim, elaborate interior trim work, and intact jib windows. The Sinn House, by contrast, is built with the same high ceilings and impressive facade, but the trim both interior and exterior is more restrained. The paired arched windows, low gabled roof, and full pediment with semi-circular window are the most important exterior Italianate characteristics. The agricultural outbuildings are minimally significant under the architectural theme, their types being well represented in other farms throughout the county. The full significance of the tenant house, possibly the original dwelling on the farm, dating from the early 19th century, has not been fully researched.

The Italianate dwelling was built by Thomas Sinn, according to Grove's History of Carrollton Manor and it was considered one of the showplaces among the large farm properties built on the former Carrollton Manor. Sinn was involved in slave trafficking, sometimes with George Kephart, another well-known slaveholder of the 1840's and 1850's. Little else is known about Sinn, except that he was a Southern sympathizer during the Civil War, as were most of the farmers in the Adamstown Region, and he apparently had a son who served in the Confederate Army.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-1-195

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858

Grove, William J. History of Carrollton Manor. Frederick: Mailsen & Bielfeld, Inc.
1928; 92, 113, 164.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Buckeystown, Md.-Va.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 5 acres centered on the main dwelling on Tax Map 103, Parcel 30

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date July 1993street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
.514-7400

7.1 Description (Continued)

The interior of the house has 14-foot ceiling heights on the first story. The center hall has painted plaster walls and a central molded plaster medallion with an early 20th century hanging globe light. The turned newel post and stair railing are dark-stained, possibly mahogany. Scroll-sawn closers ornament the stairway. The door trim is pine and the doors have six panels. In the rear wing second story, the trim is grained. Mantelpieces in the main floor are rather simple molded wood and the floors appear to be the original hardwood boards.

Outbuildings:

Chicken house: The frame chicken house may have been built about 1900-1910. It has tongue-and-groove siding and a standing seam metal shed roof. It is located west of the dwelling.

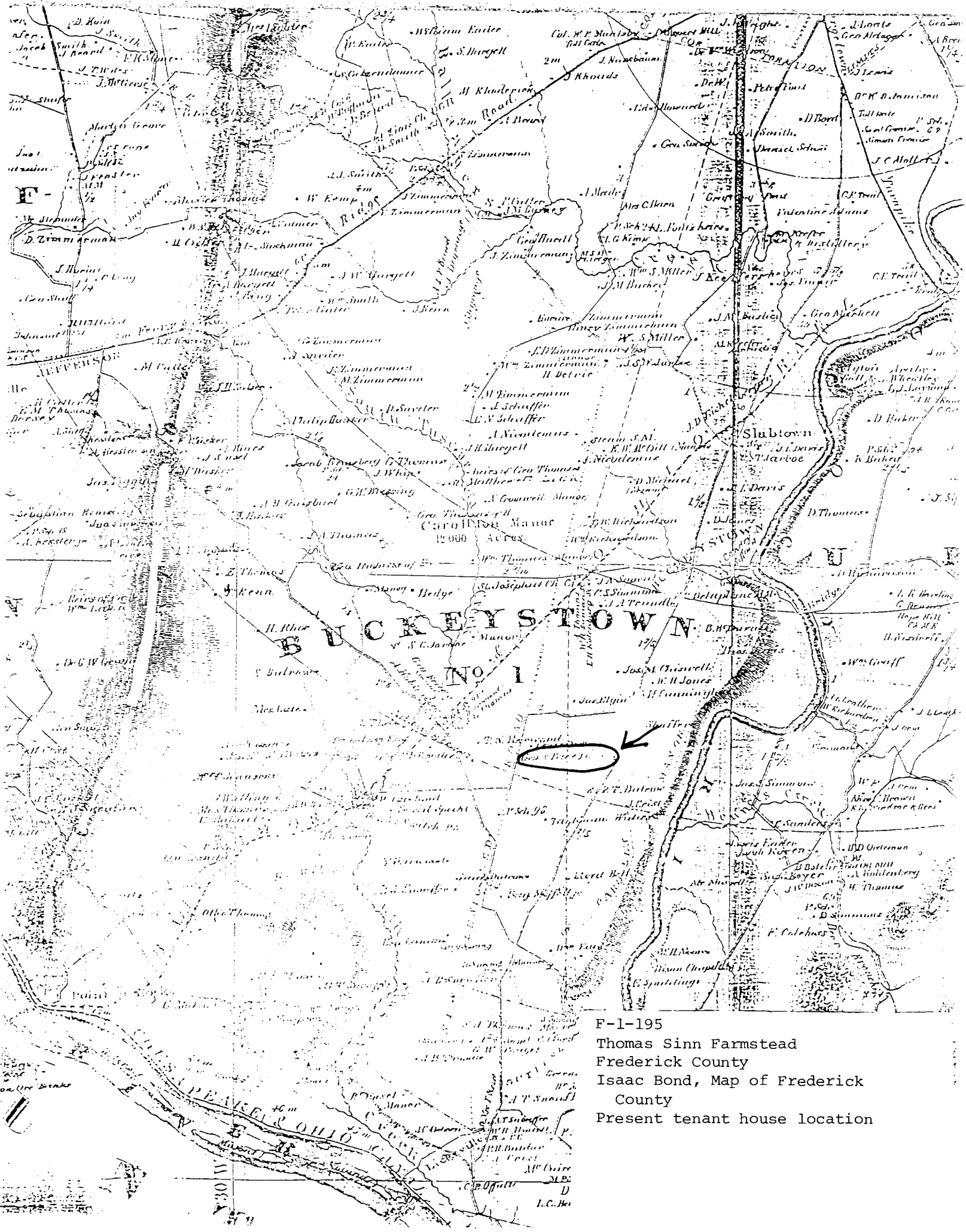
Bank barn: The frame bank barn is located south of the house has weathered, white-painted tongue-and-groove siding with painted arched "vents" which were apparently painted over with whitewash and revealed when weathering took place. The tongue-and-groove siding, the vertical board enclosed stall level on the south, and the generally more coursed stone foundation strongly suggest that the barn was built in the late 19th century. A non-contributing concrete silo stands next to the ramp on the north elevation. The property also contains a non-contributing concrete block dairy barn and milk house.

Wagon shed/corn crib: The frame wagon shed/corn crib is located west of the bank barn. The north and south elevations have german siding which is rather deteriorated. The east and west corn cribs have vertical board siding. The roof is corrugated metal and is also deteriorated. The date of the wagon shed is probably about 1900.

Tenant house: Although inaccessible for this survey, the tenant house at the south end of the farmstead is mentioned here because historical records indicate that it may be an early 19th century structure, predating the main dwelling. It appears from a distance to have artificial siding and is a 1-1/2 story building with exterior alterations. Grove's History of Carrollton Manor (1928) has a brief mention of the house as being very old when Grove was a youth during the Civil War and occupied by George and Peter Thomas, two very old men. These were probably George Thomas (1785-1869), a bachelor, and his brother Peter (1793-1873), a widower, who, with a third bachelor brother John (1782-1841), owned the property from 1834 to 1873. Further research and field examination are necessary to conclusively identify the building and evaluate its significance.

Lot Size, Description,
Other Information,
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Cost	Miscellaneous
TG 5/31 11 Mar 1876	John T. Simm	Joseph S. Dutrow & Sue A. Dutrow		
Will Record S 601/368	Joseph S. Dutrow	Peter Thomas		
CM 10/242 28 Jul 1873	Joseph S. Dutrow	David Thomas et ux	Part of Lot No. 4 of interest #6500 "Carrollton" & part of Lot No. 3 } devised to David Thomas by LW & AT of George Thomas	JS 45/27, Jan 1834 John & Harriet Lee to John Thomas
CM 10/245 28 Jul 1873	Joseph S. Dutrow	Daniel Baker	202 a.	
CM 10/243 28 Jul 1873	Daniel Baker	Joseph S. Dutrow	51 a., 6 p.	

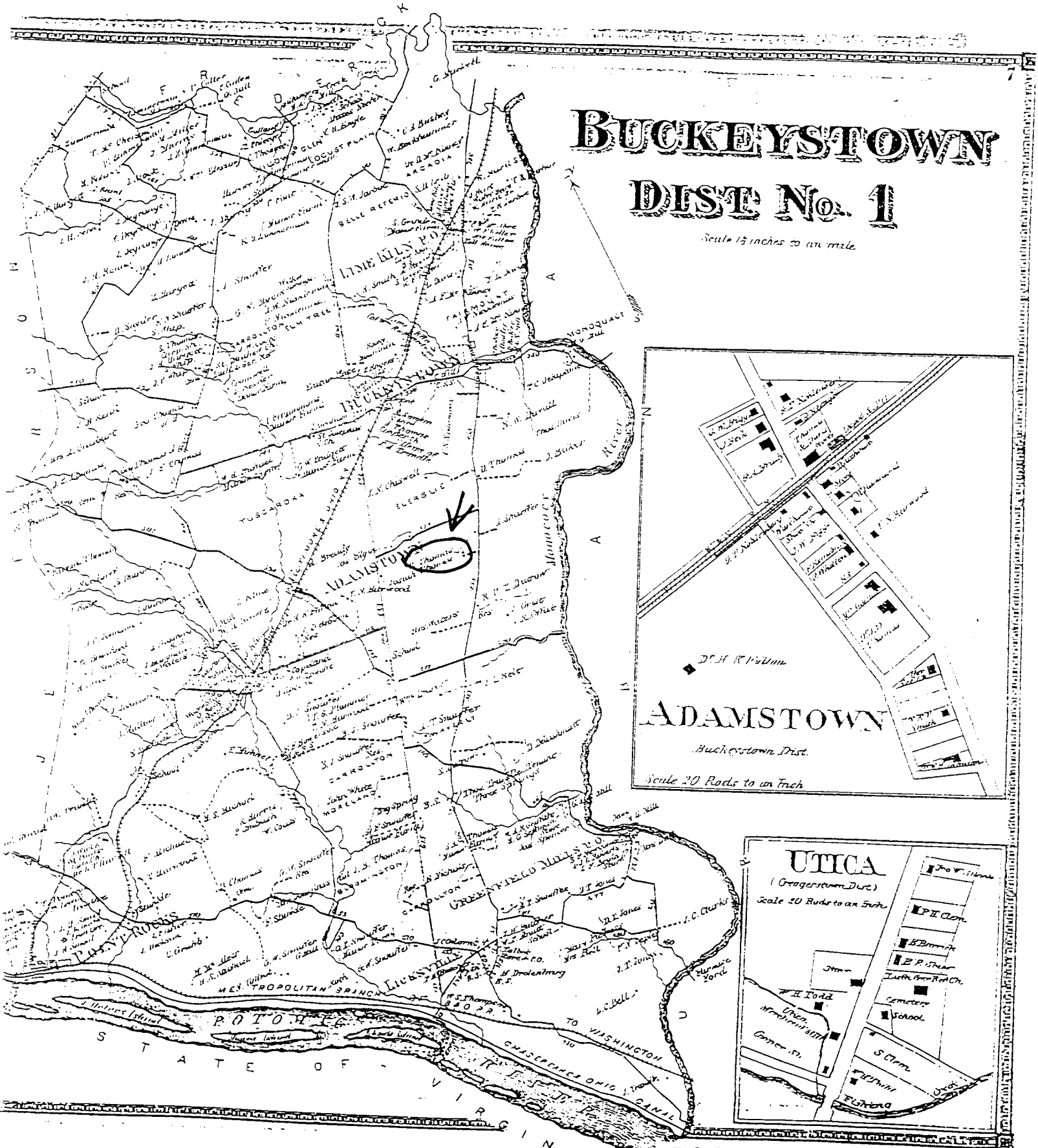


F-1-195
Thomas Sinn Farmstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County
Present tenant house location

BUCKEYSTOWN

DIST No. 1

Scale 1 1/2 inches to an mile

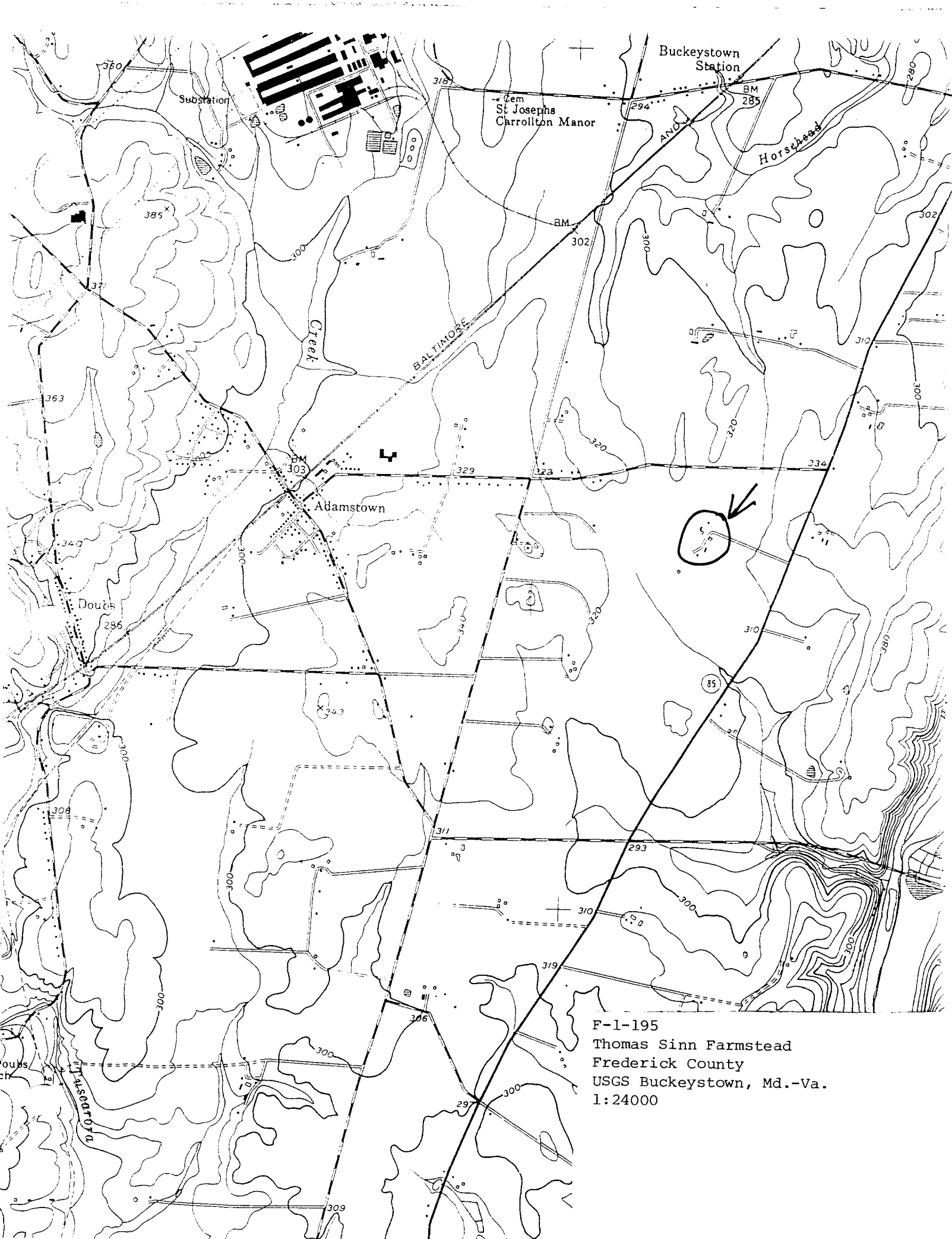


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Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



F-1-195
Thomas Sinn Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Buckeystown, Md.-Va.
1:24000



F-1-195

Thomas Sinn Farmstead
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1983

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

East elevation

1/6



F-1-195

Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SH PO, Crownsville Md.

South elevation

2/6



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Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northwest corner view

3/6



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Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Central stair hall

4/6



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Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Cranesville, Md

Bank barn, Southeast corner view

5/6



F-1-195

Thomas Sinn Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Wagon shed/corn crib, northeast corner view

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